

Appl. 10/601,828
Reply to Office Action of September 9, 2005
Amendment Dated November 9, 2005

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0039] with the following amended paragraph:

[0039] As shown in FIG. 3D, the blade ~~112~~ 100 is forced, as indicated by the arrow, into the base plate 110 as with a press 124 until the bottom surface or edge 126 of the blade ~~112~~ 100 is substantially flush with the back surface 128 of the base plate 110. By doing so, it is at least reasonably ensured that the blade ~~112~~ 100 is properly positioned relative to the base plate 110 such that the cutting edge 130 of the blade ~~112~~ 100 is substantially parallel to the bottom surface 128 of the base plate 110. It should be noted that the thickness of the base plate 110 is such that the blade ~~112~~ 100 will be provided proper lateral support during the manufacturing process as well as during use by an end user to prevent the blade from bending relative to the base plate. This is of particular relevance when utilizing blades of thinner cross-section or blades that are not necessarily adequately strengthened by the formations of bends therein.

Please replace paragraph [0046] with the following amended paragraph:

[0046] While the blades forming the interior cuts described herein have been illustrated as being comprised of elongate, thin blade members, it is also contemplated that such blade members may be formed from punch type members such as those found on paper punches and the like. For example, if it is desired to cut eyes out of a sheet of material that is being

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die cut into the shape of a person or animal, elongate posts may be received within the insert holding one of the blades. The elongate posts may then be provided with sharpened edges for punching a hole in the material being cut. Furthermore, the posts may be held in place by providing a hole in the base plate. Such posts could then be attached, as by welding, to the base plate. As shown in FIG. 5, it is noted that the blades need not form a continuous, enclosed shape. The desired shape may be formed from a combination of continuous cuts, spaces and/or perforated cuts as ~~my~~ may be desired.